

From: Alan (Earthlink)
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 2:37am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement - Leave Microsoft Alone

To the District Judge, Department of Justice:

Enough already! Leave Microsoft alone!

Competitors are trying to destroy Microsoft, to cut off their legs to make others seem taller. They want to destroy it, rather than compete.

But you are not just punishing Microsoft, you are punishing the tens of thousands of individual customers like myself who use Microsoft's products to make our lives easier. Everything that you are punishing them for is something that improves my quality life and saves me time and money.

Sun, Oracle, Apple, and the other companies who trumped up charges against Microsoft are not the Great Protectors of Competition, they are jealous, whining destroyers of competition, because they feel unable to compete with Microsoft on the strength of their own products and abilities.

Microsoft's supposed "monopoly" will disappear the minute their product ceases to be a great product at a reasonable price. The alleged "power" they have, due to their size, can turn against them at a moment's notice, if their product is no longer attractive to the consumer. Their size makes them more sensitive to their public, because one bad release means that millions of people don't upgrade, not just a few, costing them billions in a matter of days. They are no more able to offer lousy products with impunity than any smaller company. They use their billions to produce a great product to serve and keep their customers, no different from a small company. There is no "coercion" here. I chose Microsoft because I like it better than Sun Unix and better than Mac. That's all. That could change the day they offer a better product than Microsoft. They haven't.

If even one of Penfield Jackson's idiotic, destructive remedies is adopted, it will be a loss to to us, the American consumer, much more than to Microsoft. If you mandate the removal of the Internet Explorer browser from the Windows operating system, for example, then simple browsing operations will again be fraught with unnecessary crashes. Netscape could use the API more effectively to achieve a similar integration, but they haven't. Microsoft has to publish this interface in order to encourage other companies to write software for Windows. They are driven by the market to disclose the means by which other companies can write software as good as theirs or better. Some do. Netscape has not. They do not deserve special consideration for their own limitations of ability. One good programmer, like Gates, Jobs, or Torvald, can beat a thousand lesser programmers. It doesn't take millions to "beat" Microsoft, just better ideas and smart marketing. There is no need to cripple Microsoft. That just discourages others from trying to achieve the same level of success.

You are considering crippling the system to allow lesser talents to "compete." Would you break the legs of all the non-American runners in the Olympics to give ours a better chance? Who does that benefit? What do those scores mean? They are worthless and tell us nothing about the capacities of human beings.

Conclusion:

Do not punish Microsoft for the mere fact that they have been a phenomenally well-run enterprise, as a business and as the leader in the personal computer revolution "Antitrust?" This case is anti-American, anti-competitive, anti-business, and opposed to every freedom that we have fought and continue to fight

for.

Background Note

I have worked in the Information Technology field for 23 years, none of them working for Microsoft, any subsidiaries, or any of its legal opponents. I speak as an expert in IT and as a citizen of the U.S., not for any organization. I have followed this case for the years that it has dragged on, crippling Microsoft and having a continuing chilling effect on other technology businesses and financial backers.

Stand up for our rights and our freedoms. Please stop the anti-American attack on Microsoft at once!

Thank you,

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